Met Office

NEWS

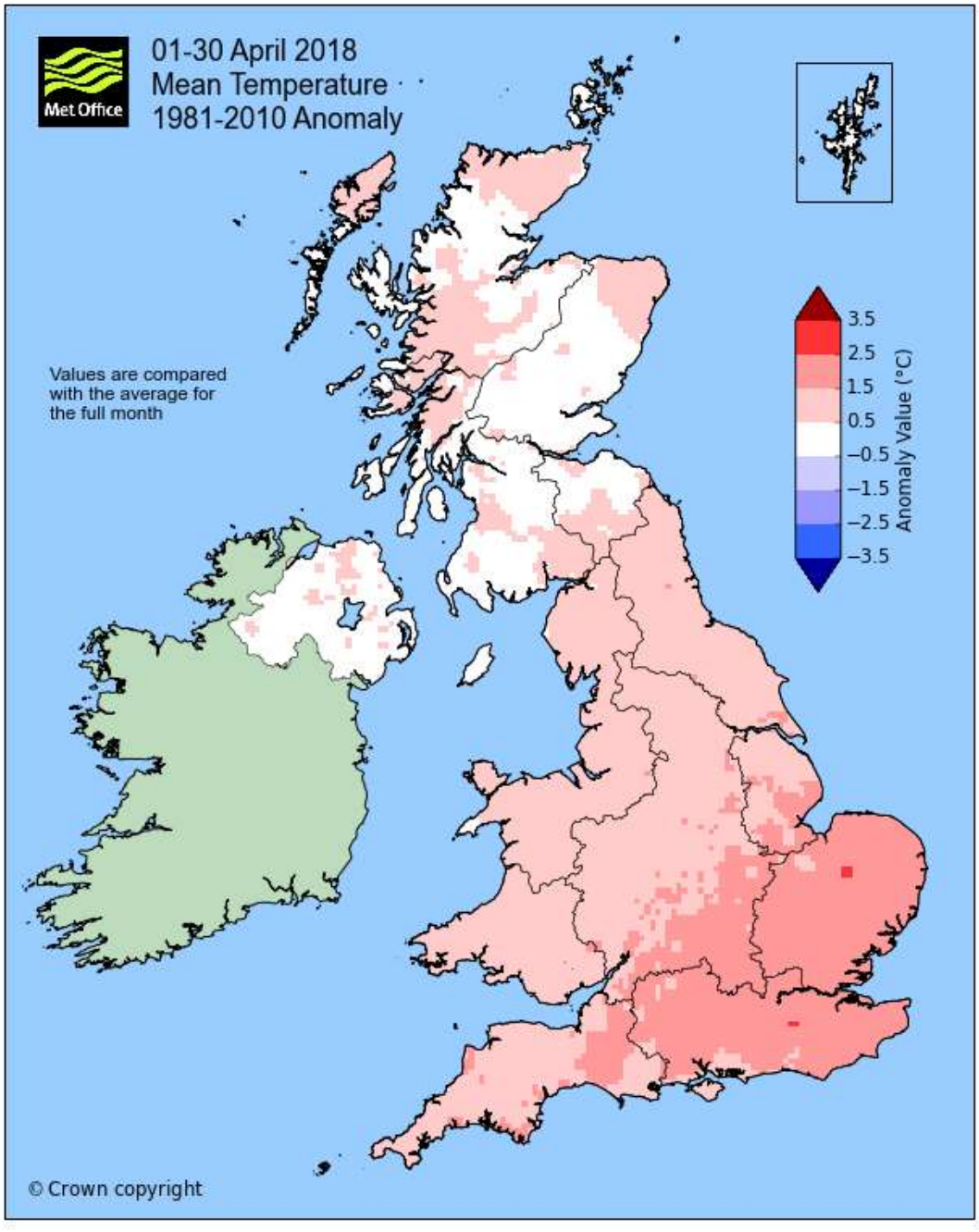
Highs and lows for April

Author: Press Office
14:56 (UTC+1) on Tue 1 May 2018

You may think April has been a cold month, but for much of the UK it's been much warmer than average.

While not record breaking, it has been a changeable month with spells of cold, wet and windy weather, as well as some very warm weather. Overall, on average the monthly temperatures were above average for many however despite the warm weather, sunshine levels have been below average, except in Scotland. The western side of the country saw only around 70% of the month's average, but northern Scotland has seen just above average sunshine. Stornoway and Tiree have been the sunniest places in the UK this month, both stations recording over 200 hours of sunshine during the month.

The first half of this month continued the cold theme established during March, which was significantly colder than average, with rather cold and unsettled, weather. High pressure then settled near the UK bringing warm air up from the south and leading to a more settled, warmer spell of weather especially in parts of the east and southeast.



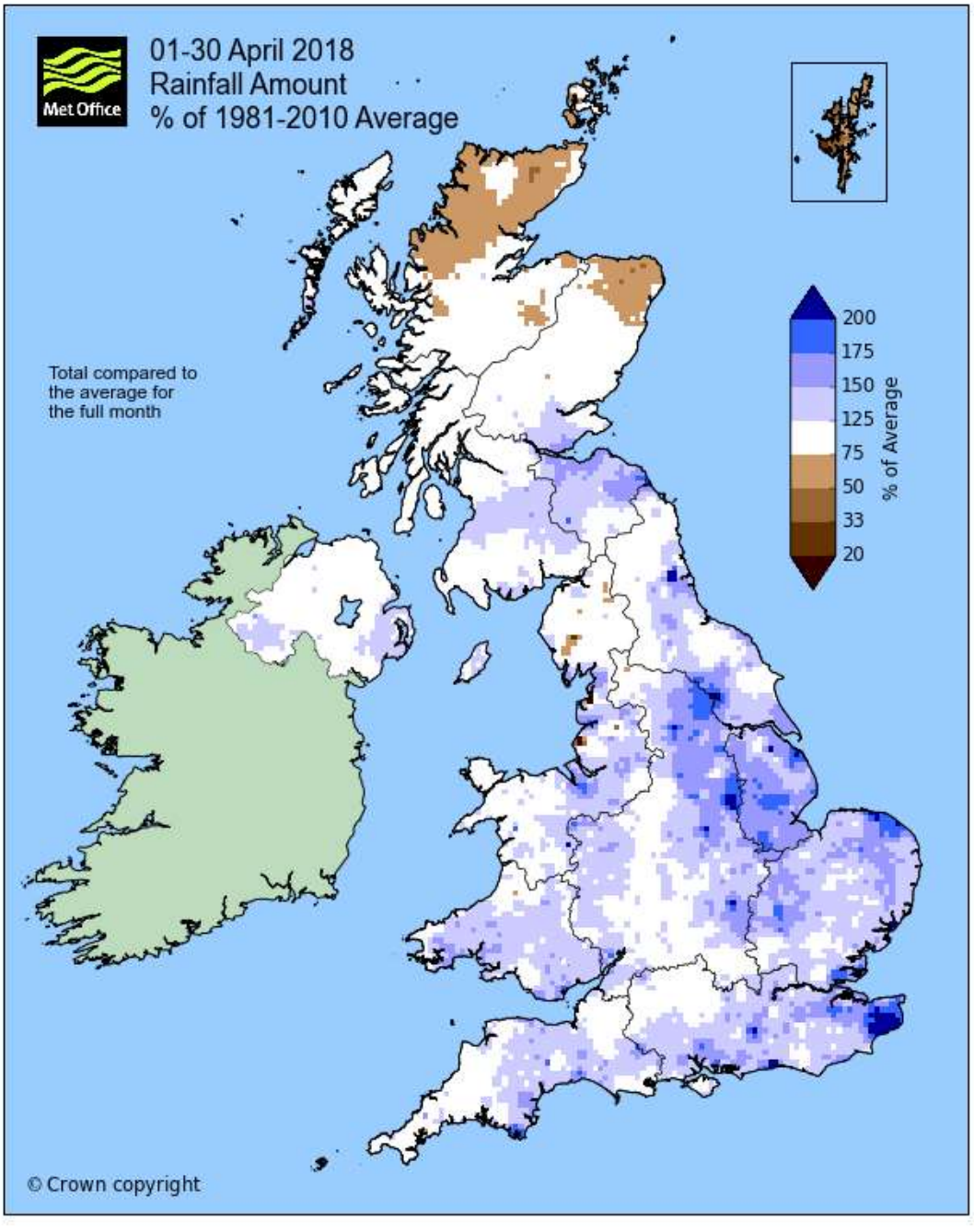
Temperatures soared and the hottest April day since 1949 was recorded at St James's Park in London on the 19th when 29.1 °C was reached: just below the highest recorded April temperature of 29.4 °C. Local April temperature records were broken at many long-running stations, as far north as Yorkshire. However, in the west, and further north, the day was cloudier and cooler, with some showery rain in places.

A range of climate variables for April 2018 showing actual figures and anomalies compared with the period 1981 - 2010

Area	Maximum temperature		Minimum temperature		Mean temperature		Precipitation		Sunshine duration	
	Act °C	Anomaly	Act °C	Anomaly	Act °C	Anomaly	Act mm	Anomaly	Act hours	Anomaly
UK	12	0.6	4.8	1.4	8.4	1	84	115	134.9	91
England	13.2	0.8	5.9	2	9.6	1.4	77	131	127.3	82
Wales	12.2	0.6	5.1	1.4	8.6	1	113.4	127	126.9	82
Scotland	10	0.3	3	0.6	6.5	0.4	88	97	150.1	111
N Ireland	11.7	0.1	4.3	0.7	8	0.4	81.7	109	131	89

The weather then gradually turned more unsettled towards the end of the month with temperatures slowly dropping back again.

Most areas have had above average rainfall this month, with a few places seeing seeing more than 175% of the month's long-term average total. Parts of southeast England saw heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds, spread across the area on the last two days of the month. The largest rainfall totals were recorded over the North Downs, where there was in excess of 40mm at Lenham in Kent. The rest of the UK that day was dry and rather cold.



Looking ahead for many areas May starts with some warm, sunny spells and temperatures recovering to the seasonal average after a cold end to April, before a more changeable period with short-lived rain or showers.

Met Office
© Crown Copyright